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ABSTRACT

This booklet outlines federal and Ohio guidelines regarding tech prep programs. Presented first is a map depicting the 24 Ohio consortia developed during the 4 phases of statewide planning of tech prep in Ohio. The next section of the booklet, which is devoted to federal provisions regarding tech prep, includes the definition of tech prep contained in the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Amendments of 1990 and lists the seven tech prep components stipulated in the amendments. The remainder of the booklet focuses on Ohio's vision of tech prep. Ohio's definition of tech prep is presented along with a brief description of the relationship between secondary- and postsecondary-level instruction. Next, the requirements regarding academic, occupational, and employability competencies at the secondary and postsecondary levels are stated. The following critical components of Ohio's tech prep program are listed: systemic change, expanded student opportunity, partnerships, early individual career education, competencies, and advanced skills. Detailed next are the elements of Ohio's integrated curriculum tech prep course path at the following instructional levels: pre-grade 8, grade 8, grades 9 through 12, associate degree/two-year college programs, and employment. Two tech prep contact persons are listed. (MN)

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TECH PREP

FEDERAL & OHIO GUIDELINES

April 1994

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OHIO CONSORTIA

PHASE I

1. Central Ohio Tech Prep Consortium
2. Miami Valley Tech Prep Consortium
3. North Central Tech Prep Consortium
4. North Coast Tech Prep Consortium
5. Tech Prep Partners of Marion VEPD III
6. Washington-Morgan Counties Tech Prep Consortium

PHASE II

7. Akron Tech Prep Consortium
8. Columbiana County Tech Prep Consortium
9. Kent Trumbull Tech Prep Consortium
10. Lakeland Tech Prep Consortium
11. Ohio South Tech Prep Consortium
12. Stark County Tech Prep Consortium
13. Upper Miami Valley Tech Prep Consortium

PHASE III

14. Clark State Tech Prep Consortium
15. Greater Cincinnati Tech Prep Consortium
16. Jefferson County Tech Prep Consortium
17. Lorain County Tech Prep Consortium
18. Mid-East Ohio Tech Prep Consortium
19. Tech Prep 2000 Consortium
20. West Central Ohio Tech Prep Consortium

PHASE IV

21. Applied Technology Instruction: Technical Education & Careers in Horticulture Tech Prep Consortium
22. Mahoning Area Consortium
24. Northwest Ohio Tech Prep Consortium
24. Tuscarawas Valley Tech Prep Consortium

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FEDERAL PROVISIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Amendments of 1990 included provisions which authorize funding for Tech Prep education programs. The term "Tech Prep education program" means a combined secondary and postsecondary program which:

A. leads to an associate degree or two-year certificate;

B. provides technical preparation in at least one field of engineering technology, applied science, mechanical, industrial, or practical art or trade, or agriculture, health, or business;

C. builds student competence in mathematics, science, and communications (including through applied academics) through a sequential course of study; and;

D. leads to placement in employment.

II. TECH PREP PROGRAM COMPONENTS—ANY SUCH PROGRAM MUST:

A. be carried out under an articulation agreement between the participants in the consortium (the term "**articulation agreement**" means a commitment to a program designed to provide students with a non-duplicative sequence of progressive achievement leading to competencies in a Tech Prep education program);

B. consist of the **two years of secondary school** preceeding graduation **and two years of higher education or an apprenticeship program** of at least two years following secondary instruction, with a common core of required proficiency in mathematics, science, communications, and technologies designed to lead to an associate degree or certificate in a specific career field;

C. include the development of **Tech Prep education curricula** appropriate to the needs of the consortium participants;

D. include **in-service training for teachers** that (a) is designed to train teachers to effectively implement Tech Prep education curricula, (b) provides for joint training for teachers from all participants in the consortium, and (c) may provide such training in weekend, evening, and summer sessions, institutes, or workshops;

E. include **training programs for counselors** designed to enable counselors to more effectively (a) recruit students for Tech Prep education programs, (b) ensure that such students successfully complete such programs, and (c) ensure that such students are placed in appropriate employment;

F. provide **equal access** to the full range of technical preparation programs to individuals who are **members of special populations**, including the development of Tech Prep education program services appropriate to the needs of such individuals, and;

G. provide for **preparatory services** which assist all participants in the programs.

OHIO'S VISION

Tech Prep is supported by the Tech Prep Education Act, a part of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act Amendments of 1990. Tech Prep in Ohio *is defined as a competency-based program of combined secondary and postsecondary education and occupational experience that includes a common core of required proficiency in mathematics, science, communications, and technologies designed to lead to an associate degree or two-year postsecondary certificate in specific career fields.* Our goal is to produce a highly educated and qualified workforce that is responsive to the needs of business, industry, and labor.

Through Ohio's statewide network of consortia, Tech Prep promotes effective linkages among secondary and postsecondary educational institutions. Each consortium is comprised of (a) at least one public community college, public technical college or branch campus offering technical education associate degree programs, (b) one or more vocational education planning districts (VEPD), and (c) business, industry, and labor partners. Associate schools within the VEPD, co-located regional campuses, four-year universities, Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Service Delivery Areas (SDAs), and Ohio's Thomas Edison programs are encouraged to be active members of the consortium.

OHIO'S TECH PREP PROGRAMS ARE:

A. developing creative and innovative options to attract those students who are neither in a college prep or vocational program, and;
B. providing expanded opportunities for students in traditional college prep and vocational programs.

Starting with the student's Individual Career Plan (ICP) in Grade 9, Tech Prep programs arrange the study of mathematics, science, communications, technology, and specific technical skills in a step-by-step progression of coordinated curricula. The goal of Ohio's Tech Prep program is to produce students who possess the advanced skills necessary to enter technical occupations by the end of a two-year postsecondary degree, school-to-work, or an apprenticeship program. This is to be achieved

through an unduplicated program of study that is responsive to the changing technical needs of business, industry, and labor.

Tech Prep programs do not focus on linking what Ohio is currently doing at the secondary level with what is currently being offered at the postsecondary level, but rather focus on achieving systemic change at both levels. In order to achieve this ambitious outcome, Ohio's Tech Prep programs require academic, occupational, and employability competency attainment at both the secondary and postsecondary levels.

AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL:

- **Academic competency** requirements must be defined at the end of Grade 12 and obtained through college prep courses or applied academic courses.
- **Occupational competency** requirements and employment options must be defined at the end of the 12th grade. Occupational competencies at the secondary level may be obtained through vocational education, technical education (using postsecondary options), school-to-work, or an apprenticeship program.
- **Employability competency** requirements must be defined at the end of Grade 12.

AT THE POSTSECONDARY LEVEL:

- **Academic competency** requirements must be defined at the end of the postsecondary degree, school-to-work, or apprenticeship program.
- **Occupational competency** requirements must be defined by the end of the postsecondary degree, school-to-work, or an apprenticeship program. Occupational competencies at the postsecondary level may be obtained through technical education, school-to-work, or an apprenticeship program.
- **Employability competency** requirements must be defined at the end of the postsecondary degree, school-to-work program, or apprenticeship program.

OHIO'S CRITICAL COMPONENTS

I. SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Tech Prep programs will demonstrate **systemic change**. New, creative, and innovative options will be provided to students. These options will not focus on linking what Ohio is currently doing at the secondary level with what is currently being offered at the postsecondary level, but rather focus on achieving systemic change at both levels.

II. EXPANDED STUDENT OPPORTUNITY

Tech Prep programs will provide **expanded opportunities** for all students.

III. PARTNERSHIPS

Tech Prep programs are a **partnership** between secondary education, postsecondary education, and business, industry, and labor.

IV. EARLY INDIVIDUAL CAREER EDUCATION

Early career education and career exploration are essential to Tech Prep programs. Starting with the student's Individual Career Plan (ICP) in grade 9, Tech Prep programs arrange the study of mathematics, science, communication, technology, and specific technical skills in a step-by-step progression of coordinated curricula.

V. COMPETENCIES

Academic, occupational, and employability competencies are required at both the secondary and postsecondary levels, enabling a student to enter employment at both the completion of the 12th grade and the end of the postsecondary program.

VI. ADVANCED SKILLS

Tech Prep curriculum must prepare students with the **advanced skills** necessary for technical occupations by the end of a two-year postsecondary degree, school-to-work, or an apprenticeship program through an unduplicated program of study that is responsive to the changing technical needs of business, industry, and labor.

"GET SERIOUS ABOUT SUCCESS"

Tech Prep in Ohio is an educational path that prepares students for employment in a technical occupation. Tech Prep prepares students for careers requiring specific occupational course work in high school and a two-year college technical degree or two-year certificate. In addition, Tech Prep students have the option to go directly to work after high school or to a four-year college or university.

This is the Integrated Curriculum course path:

PRE-8TH GRADE

- Career development activities

PRE-8TH GRADE & 8TH GRADE

- Career development activities
- Career interest and academic assessment
- Initiation of an Individual Career Plan (ICP) document

Entry level employment or on to Associate Degree or Two-Year Certificate Program

HIGH SCHOOL 9TH & 10TH GRADE

- Academic foundations with particular emphasis on math, science, and communications
- Annual review of the ICP document

HIGH SCHOOL 11TH & 12TH GRADE

- Higher level math, science & communications competencies
- Occupational competencies through work or laboratory-based learning
- Employability competencies
- Annual review of the ICP

Transfer to a Four-Year College

COLLEGE: Associate Degree or Two-Year Certificate Program

- Advanced technical curriculum including occupational, academic & employability competencies

EMPLOYMENT

- Advanced skills technician

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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